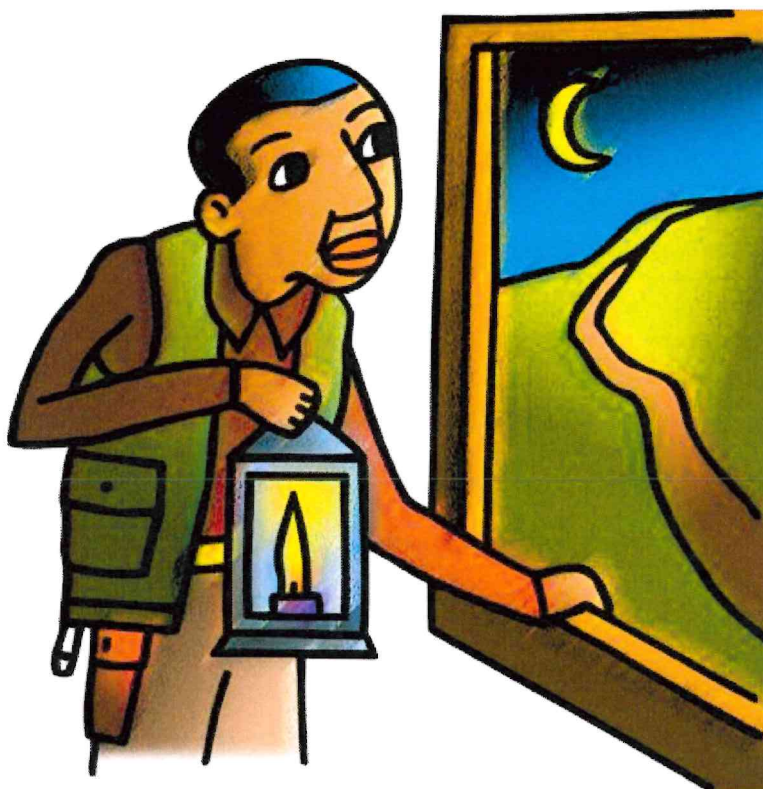


August 10, 2025

9th Sunday After Pentecost



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

**Church Office:** 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

**Website:** [www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](http://www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

**E-mail:** [office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.comcastbiz.net)

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.  
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

## GATHERING

**Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!**

### INTRODUCTION

*Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

### PRELUDE

*Gymnopedie No. 1*  
Andrew Ehrhardt, Flute

by Eric Satie

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you free us to love others, you lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, and you surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity. And yet, O Merciful God, we turn aside to our own paths, and we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's beloved children. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN** *Awake, My Soul, And With The Sun*

**ELW #557**

Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### KYRIE

**ELW page 203**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

**ELW page 204**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

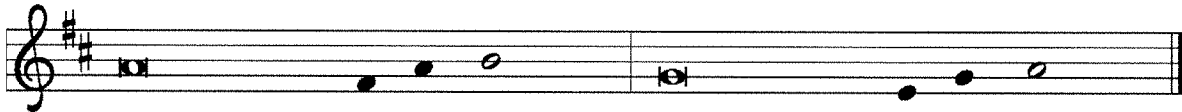
**PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

*Please be seated.*

## PSALM 33:12-22



- <sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God <sup>|</sup> is the LORD!  
 Happy the people chosen to <sup>|</sup> be God's heritage!
- <sup>13</sup> **The LORD looks <sup>|</sup> down from heaven,**  
**and sees all <sup>|</sup> humankind.**
- <sup>14</sup> God sits firmly en- <sup>|</sup> throned and watches  
 all who dwell <sup>|</sup> on the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> **God fashions <sup>|</sup> all their hearts**  
**and observes <sup>|</sup> all their deeds.**
- <sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size <sup>|</sup> of the army,  
 nor are warriors rescued by <sup>|</sup> their great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> **The horse gives vain <sup>|</sup> hope for victory;**  
**despite its great strength it <sup>|</sup> cannot save.**
- <sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD,  
 upon those who wait for your <sup>|</sup> steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup> **to deliver their <sup>|</sup> lives from death,**  
**and to keep them alive in <sup>|</sup> time of famine.**
- <sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD,  
 our helper <sup>|</sup> and our shield.

- <sup>21</sup> Surely, our heart rejoices in you,  
for in your holy name we put our trust.
- <sup>22</sup> Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we place our hope in you.

### **READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

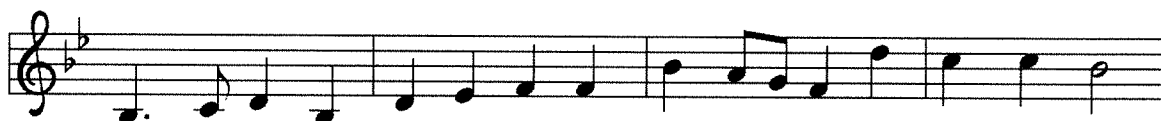
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds

them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**    *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*  
                          Setting by William Allen Pasch  
                          [Andrew Ehrhardt, Baritone]

*Wake! Awake! Keep your lamps trimmed! Dark night will soon be gone.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work’s almost done.*

*Children, don’t grow weary, for the work’s almost done.*

*Darker midnight lies before us, ’fore this work is almost done.*

*Lo., the morning soon is breaking, for this work is almost done.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**WOV #732**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God of grace," please respond with "**Hear our prayer.**"*

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW page 207**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

ELW page 208

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW #764

*The King Of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW #502

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. There is white grape juice in the center of the circular tray and red wine in the outer part of the tray. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you gathered us to your table and we were filled with your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*O God, Our Help In Ages Past*

ELW #632

Verse 1, 3, 6 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 CHOIR, Verse 5 MEN

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.  
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

**POSTLUDE**

*Sleepers, Wake*

by Miles Martin

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Worship Assistant: June Jordan**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Ann & Stephen Gring, in  
memory of Stevie Geise.**



**Home Reading: Genesis 15:1-6**

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."  
<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**1st Communion Class (3rd grade & up)  
Today  
1:30-3:30 PM here at Grace**

**Good Old Days Festival**

Our church is planning to have a booth again this year at the  
**Good Old Days Festival at Kennedy Park  
September 6 from 11 AM-6 PM.**

This is always a great opportunity to get our name out in the community, meet our neighbors, and share about our faith, ministries, and upcoming events our church provides.

If you have any time to spare on that day, we could really use your assistance. All you need to do is show up with a bright smile and the love Christ in your heart! Those who helped last year had fun helping to hand out fliers, brochures and give-away items, and assisting with our prayer tree and craft.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who wishes to be part of this wonderful event.

# OKTOBERFEST



**Friday, October 17, 2025**

**at Grace Lutheran Church**

**5:00-7:00 PM**

**11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, NJ**

(on Shore Road between Dawes Ave. and Meyran Ave.)



**German Food  
& Music**



**50/50 Raffle**

**Tickets: \$33**

The ticket includes: dinner, 2 drinks (beer/wine), and dessert. (Non-alcoholic drink options and hot dogs will also be available.)

All proceeds will benefit our ministry in the community.

**Games**



**Fun for all ages!**

*Tickets may be purchased online  
through this QR code or in person by  
calling the church office at  
609-927-3082*



# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## August 10, 2025–August 17, 2025

### 9th Sunday of Pentecost 8/10/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 8:45AM Adult Forum  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**1:30PM 1st Communion Class**

### MONDAY 8/11/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 8/12/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 8/13/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
 6:00PM AA Book Study  
 6:30PM Compassionate Friends  
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**This week:**

**Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00**

**Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00**

### THURSDAY 8/14/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 AA 12-Step  
 7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 8/15/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
 7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 8/16/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 10th Sunday of Pentecost 8/17/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship

### SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner  
 6710 Tilton Road  
 Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
 609-641-3669